

Message Text

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ORIGIN IO-14

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UN, AORG

SUBJECT: UN FIFTH COMMITTEE: ACABQ EXPANSION

REF: A) USUN 4735, B) STATE 279541 (REPEATED LONDON),
C) USUN 5197, D) USUN 5264

1. SIERRA LEONE DELEGATION INTRODUCED IN FIFTH COMMITTEE
(ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY) OF THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY
A RESOLUTION TO EXPAND THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRA-
TIVE AND BUDGETARY QUESTIONS (ACABQ) ALONG THE LINES OF
PROPOSAL REPORTED IN REFTEL A. BASIC U.S. POSITION
REGARDING THIS PROPOSAL IS INDICATED IN REFTEL B.

2. IN VIEW OF SITUATION IN NEW YORK REGARDING THIS
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PROPOSAL (REFTELS C AND D), EMBASSY IS REQUESTED TO CONSULT
WITH FCO ON APPROPRIATE MEASURES TO AVOID UNDUE EXPANSION
OF ACABQ. FYI: EMBASSY SHOULD NOT REFER TO INDICATIONS
OF ACTIVE UK SUPPORT FOR ENLARGEMENT OF ACABQ TO 21
REPORTED IN PARA 2 OF REFTEL C IN ORDER TO AVOID POSSIBLE
STRAIN ON USUN RELATIONS WITH UKUN. WE WOULD PREFER TO
APPROACH FCO ON BASIS OF PRESUMED COMMON INTEREST. END FYI.

3. EMBASSY SHOULD MAKE FOLLOWING POINTS IN DISCUSSING
ISSUE WITH FCO:

--WE BELIEVE ACABQ IS KEY INSTRUMENT FOR EXERCISING
INTELLIGENT RESTRAINT OVER ILL-CONCEIVED EFFORTS TO
EXPAND UN PROGRAMS AND BUDGETS, WHICH IS A PROBLEM OF
INCREASING IMPORTANCE FOR THE UNITED STATES AND OTHER
MAJOR DONOR COUNTRIES.

--WHILE WE SEE NO NEED FOR EXPANDING THE ACABQ, WE
RELUCTANTLY HAVE INDICATED NO OBJECTION WITHIN THE UN
RESTRUCTURING COMMITTEE TO THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES
PROPOSAL FOR EXPANDING THE ACABQ FROM ITS PRESENT THIRTEEN
TO SIXTEEN MEMBERS AS PART OF AN OVERALL SATISFACTORY
REPORT FROM THE UN RESTRUCTURING COMMITTEE.

--WHILE WE RECOGNIZE THE IMPOSSIBILITY OF DENYING THE
DEVELOPING COUNTRY DEMANDS FOR A NOMINAL EXPANSION, WE
ARE FEARFUL THAT EXPANSION BEYOND SIXTEEN MIGHT BECOME
UNCONTROLLABLE SINCE THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES THEN
COULD BE EXPECTED TO DEMAND AN ADDITIONAL COMPENSATING
INCREASE, ETC. FYI: WE WOULD CONSIDER AN EXPANSION TO
21, REPORTEDLY FAVORED BY UK REPRESENTATIVE, TO BE TOO
LARGE FOR EFFECTIVE OPERATION OF ACABQ. END FYI.

--A SIGNIFICANTLY ENLARGED ACABQ WOULD BECOME HIGHLY
POLITICIZED AND WOULD OPERATE MORE AS AN EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE FOR THE FIFTH COMMITTEE THAN AS AN EXPERT
COMMITTEE; THE RESULT WOULD BE THE ABSENCE OF THE HIGH
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QUALITY TECHNICAL SCRUTINY OF ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY
PROPOSALS NOW PROVIDED BY THE ACABQ EXPERTS.

--WERE THE ACABQ TO BECOME SIGNIFICANTLY ENLARGED, THE
MAJOR CONTRIBUTORS WOULD HAVE TO CONSIDER SERIOUSLY
IF THEIR SPECIAL ROLE IN THE BUDGETARY PROCESS HAD
BEEN MEANINGFULLY DIMINISHED.

--WE BELIEVE THAT CANDIDATES FROM THE WESTERN EUROPEAN
AND OTHERS (WEO) GROUP FOR ONE OR MORE OF THE PROPOSED
ADDITIONAL SEATS WOULD THREATEN AN UNCONTROLLABLE ACABQ
EXPANSION.

--WE BELIEVE THAT COUNTRIES CURRENTLY HAVING EXPERT
MEMBERS ON THE ACABQ SHOULD CONSULT TOGETHER, AND
WORK WITHIN THEIR REGIONAL GROUPS, IN NEW YORK TO PREVENT
ANY ACABQ EXPANSION BEYOND SIXTEEN.

--WE WOULD BE INTERESTED IN LEARNING UK VIEWS ON ANY
OTHER MEASURES WE COULD TAKE JOINTLY TO AVOID SUCH AN
EXPANSION OF THE ACABQ. CHRISTOPHER

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